

*Trans-Canada Highway Act*

**The Deputy Chairman:** The hon. member realizes that we must confine ourselves to this resolution. As an hon. member of long standing in this chamber I am sure he will appreciate the situation and co-operate with the Chair.

**Mr. Bourget:** Speaking to the point of order raised by the Minister of Public Works, may I suggest that we are considering a resolution which could mean millions of dollars for the province of Quebec. As hon. members of this committee and representatives of our own province are we not entitled to get a share of the money that is spent?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Mr. Chairman, before you make a ruling could I say a word on this point. After all, the trans-Canada highway is offered by the federal government to all ten provinces and not just nine of them. What my hon. friend is seeking to do is to show that it would be in the interests of the people he represents in the county of Levis and the people in the province of Quebec generally to participate with the rest of Canadians in this national program. It seems to me when he is arguing about that matter he is arguing about the very essence of the question.

**Mr. Denis:** Since the inception of the expenditure of this money for the highway not one foot of road has been built in the province of Quebec, Mr. Chairman—

**Mr. Winch:** Because of the choice of the Quebec government.

**Mr. Denis:** Yes, but there are about 50 Conservative members from Quebec and we would like to know if they intend to take advantage of this.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. The Chair does not intend to restrict any hon. member in speaking on anything relevant to this resolution and I think the committee understands that but I hope hon. members will refrain from indulging in what is perhaps best termed a political speech and will stick to the terms of the resolution.

**Mr. Denis:** This is not a political speech. We are giving facts.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. I recognize the hon. member for Levis.

**Mr. Bourget:** I hope hon. members will allow me to complete my speech which I shall do in four or five minutes. This afternoon we listened to speeches made by hon. members for Manitoba and British Columbia who I believe mentioned the requests of their provinces and no one rose in his place to stop them from speaking so why should

[Mr. Walker.]

not I be entitled to speak about my own province when this resolution could mean millions of dollars to my province. We are allowed some leeway on a resolution and I think we should be entitled to represent not only the views of Liberal members of parliament but the general views of the population of Quebec.

**Mr. Ricard:** The Conservative government will settle that.

*(Translation):*

**Mr. Bourget:** Sit down.

**An hon. Member:** The gag, the gag.

**Mr. Pigeon:** The Bourget gag.

**Mr. Bourget:** Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, this is not the policy of the one who has succeeded to the Hon. Mr. Sauve in the legislature, because early in March he stated that if our government had not shared in the project, it was first and foremost because it involved the principle of provincial autonomy. Well, section 92 of the British North America Act, which I quoted earlier, clearly shows that such is not the case—unless I am mistaken in the interpretation of the text. In any case, I have heard no one contradict that fact in the house. If, on the other hand, the province of Quebec did have technical objections to raise, it should have raised them. Now, that project has been going on for 11 years, and the government of the Union Nationale has never, in any way, introduced any proposals or counter-proposals that might have settled that matter definitely.

During this session, about two or three weeks ago, I asked the Minister of Public Works whether the province of Quebec had made any proposals or counter-proposals concerning the trans-Canada highway, and the answer was no.

I have here the record of the debates that took place on that matter in the Quebec legislature early in March.

*(Text):*

**Mr. Browne (St. John's West):** Mr. Chairman, would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Bourget:** Certainly.

**Mr. Browne (St. John's West):** Is the hon. gentleman criticizing the government of the province of Quebec or the government of Canada?

**Mr. Bourget:** I am criticizing the government of the province of Quebec.